PROPOSALS

Humbly Offered to the Conſideration of thoſe who are to be

Electors of Members

FOR THE

Enſuing PARLIAMENT:

To be by them Delivered to their Reſpective Members in writing, at the Time of their Elections.

IT being the *Ancient Cuſtom*, and *undoubted Right* of all Counties, Cities and Buroughs, upon the Sealing of their Indentures of Elections, to deliver unto their reſpective *Repreſentatives*, ſuch *Inſtructions* in Writing, as they conceived moſt fit, either for their own particular good, or the good of the People in general; with an *earneſt deſire* to ſuch Repreſentatives to proſecute thoſe Inſtructions in Parliament.

Therefore it may be conſidered, Whether at this preſent Juncture, they ought not to be ſuch as theſe, *viz.*

1. That their Repreſentatives be *deſired* to uſe their utmoſt intereſt to procure an Act of Parliament for the better ſetling, and making more uſeful, the *Militia* of *England*, wherein the Welfare and Happineſs both of the King and Nation is ſo highly concerned.

2. That they be *deſired* in like manner, to endeavour to get an Act for *Regulating Elections* of Members to ſerve in Parliament, for want whereof ſo many Miſchiefs have happened touching Elections, and ſo much precious time hath been ſpent in Parliament, about determining the ſame.

3. That they be alſo *deſired* to preſs the paſſing of an Act for *ſetling of Corporations*; and for ſecuring them in the future againſt the late *pretended Powers* of *Surrenders* and *Quo Warranto's*.

4. That they be *deſired* to promote an Act of *Indemnity*, with Exceptions only of ſome few Notorious Offenders and Criminals, which will greatly tend to the *Honour* of *Parliaments*, and be a *Juſtification* of their Proceedings both at home and abroad to all Poſterity.

5. And

5. And lastly, That they be *desired* to apply their utmost pains and industry (like good old *English men*) for obtaining an Act, That a *Parliament* may effectually be secured to Meet and Sit once in *Three Years* at least, for redressing of Grievances, preserving the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and for the general Safeguard both of the King and Kingdom.

Now that it hath been the *Ancient Custom* and *Usage* of all Counties, Cities, and Boroughs in *England*, to deliver to their *Representatives*, on the days of their *Elections*, such *Memorials* and *Instructions* as they should judg most necessary and conducing to the *Publick Weal* and *Benefit* of their said Counties, Cities, and Corporations, and which they would have *Them* to prosecute in *Parliament*; I shall sufficiently prove to you from these *two following Instances*, though it were easie to give several others to justifie the same; but the present Design is Brevity.

(1) In the 13. *E.* 3. 350 years ago, the Lords having granted for themselves to the King, the Tenth Sheaf of all the Corn of their Demesns, except of their bound Tenants; the Tenth Fleece of Wool, and the Tenth Lamb of their own store, to be paid in Two Years; and would that the great wrong (*Maltolt*) set upon Wool, be revoked, and that this Grant turn not into a Custom.

The Commons being acquainted herewith, returned their Answer in a Schedule by themselves, that they knew and tendred the King's Estate, and were ready to aid the same, only in this new Device, *they durst not agree without further Conference with their Countries*; and so praying respite until another time, they promised to Travel to their Countries, and use all the Interest they could to enable themselves to give a good and convenient Aid. *Cotton's Records, fol.* 17. *vid.* 4. *Instit* 14.

(2) In the Parl. 17. *Car.* 1. The Lord *Digby*, afterwards Earl of *Bristol*, in his Speech concerning Grievances, begins thus,

'*Mr. Speaker*,

'You have received now a solemn 'Account from most of the Shires of '*England*, of the several Grievances 'and Oppressions they sustain, and 'nothing as yet from *Dorsetshire*; 'Sir, I would not have you think 'that I serve a Land of *Goshen*, that 'we live there in Sun shine, whilst 'Darkness and Plagues overspread 'the rest of the Land; as little would 'I have you think, that being under 'the same sharp measure that the rest, 'we are either insensible and benum-'med, or that that Shire wanteth a 'Servant to represent its Sufferings 'boldly.

'It is true, Mr. *Speaker*, the Coun-'ty of *Dorset* hath not *digested its* '*Complaints into that formal way of* '*Petition*, *which others* (*I see*) *have* '*done*; but have intrusted them to 'my Partners, and my delivery of 'them by word of mouth, unto this 'Honourable House: And *there was* '*given unto us in the County-Court*, '*the day of our Election*, *a short* Memo-'rial *of the Heads of them*, *which was* '*read in the hearing of the Freehold-*'*ers*, *who all unanimously with one voice* '*signified upon each particular*, *that it* '*was their desire that we should repre-*'*sent them to the Parliament*, which 'with your Leave I shall do.

And then he declared what they were.

Speeches and Passages in the Parliament 17*th of King* Charles *the First, collected into one Volume.*

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